

FRANKLIN, GILBERT A.

DRAWING 21a

SEALFORD - 1


NY. 8009. 085 03480

Statues of Abraham Lincoln

Gilbert A. Franklin

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



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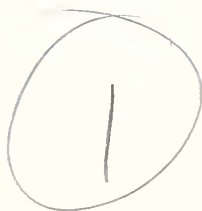
<http://archive.org/details/statuesofabflinc>



Sculptor: Gilbert Franklin - R. I. School of Design
Roger Williams Park
Providence R. I.

Dedicated May 25, 1958

PLEASE
CREDIT *Marcello*
4 FALLON AVE., PROV., R. I. GA. 1-4240





PROVIDENCE JOURNAL-BULLETIN PHOTO
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(10)

WRIGHT D. HEYDON
828 INDUSTRIAL BANK BUILDING
PROVIDENCE 3, RHODE ISLAND
March 18, 1957

Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry
Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Doctor McMurtry:

We certainly appreciated your sharing part of your day with us when you recently came to Providence and met us at the University Club. The members of the Netopian Club feel that you contributed to their information concerning Abraham Lincoln, and we are grateful for your talk.

Mr. D'Orlando may have told you that a committee headed by Fred A. Otis, Esquire of Providence, has awarded the erection of a monument of Abraham Lincoln, which will be completed in time, it is hoped, for unveiling on Lincoln's birthday in 1958. The monument is being sculptured in accordance with the will of Henry W. Harvey.

It may be of interest to you to learn that the sculptor, Gilbert A. Franklin of the R.I. School of Design, was insured by the Lincoln National Life at the time that he was commissioned to make the monument, which is to be placed in Roger Williams Park, Providence, R. I.

Mrs. Heydon and I are also insured by the Lincoln and we would appreciate being added to your mailing list for the "Lincoln Lore" publication.

3/21/57

Sincerely yours,

Wright Heydon

MICHAEL A. D'ORLANDO, C.L.U.
GENERAL AGENT
PHONES: GASPEE 1-4984 AND 1-4985



Its name indicates its character

812-13 INDUSTRIAL BANK BLDG.
PROVIDENCE 3, RHODE ISLAND

The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company

March 25, 1957

Doctor R. Gerald McMurtry, Director
The Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Gerald:

Thank you for your letter of March 21st. Your thought on a news story certainly is a fine one, especially since the sculptor is insured by the Lincoln through my agency.

I have discussed your idea with Mr. Heydon and of course we cannot take any definite action until we discuss the idea with Mr. Fred A. Otis who heads the committee which contracted for the statue. Mr. Otis is away until April 10th but Mr. Heydon and I will contact him soon after his return. I will write you further at that time.

Having you with us for one day was very enjoyable to us and we are deeply appreciative of your fine spirit in following through the busy schedule which we set up.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike".

Michael A. D'Orlando, C.L.U.
General Agent

MAD:jmd

605 HOSPITAL TRUST BUILDING
PROVIDENCE 3, RHODE ISLAND

acknowledged
5/22/58

May 20, 1958

My dear Mr. McMurtry:

On behalf of the Industrial National Bank, Trustee under the will of Henry W. Harvey, and as Chairman of the Committee in charge of the ceremony, it gives me pleasure to invite you to attend the dedication of the Lincoln Memorial statue at Roger Williams Park on Sunday, May 25th, at 3 p.m. The exercises will take place about 200 yards north of the Museum at the end of the road leading in from the Broad Street entrance to the park.

If you will let me know that you plan to be present, I will endeavor to save a seat for you.

Very truly yours,

Fred G. Otis

Mr. R. Gerald McMurtry
The Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Sculptor Gilbert Franklin of School of Design faculty did Lincoln statue, at left, for park. His bronze 'Flora,' at right, took an honorable mention in Art Club show.



—Photo by Lawrence S. Milford

Lincoln Statue in Roger Williams Park to be Turned Over to City; Art Club Will Open First Annual National Sculpture Show Today.

By BRADFORD F. SWAN

SCULPTURE, presently probably the most neglected of the arts, comes into its own today in Providence with two events of considerable importance.

In Roger Williams Park this afternoon at 3 o'clock a statue of Abraham Lincoln, cast in bronze, will be turned over to the city in fulfillment of a trust created by the late Henry W. Harvey under his will.

An hour later, at 4 p.m., the Providence Art Club will open its first biennial National Sculpture Exhibition, consisting of more than 50 works done by sculptors from 18 different states.

The sculpture show has been made possible by a generous bequest to the Art Club by Florence Brevoort Kane, a sculptor herself. Organized by a committee headed by Carleton Goff, the show has been nearly a year in the making.

The Lincoln statue has been erected as a memorial to the donor's wife, Georgiana. The sculptor was Gilbert A. Franklin, the head of the division of fine arts at the Rhode Island School of Design. He worked with an advisory committee for more than four years, and has done a standing figure which, including its granite base, rises to a height of nearly 19 feet.

Dr. Roy P. Basler, director of the Reference Department of the Library of Congress, will be the chief speaker at the presentation ceremonies. Charles R. Wood, urban renewal coordinator, will represent Mayor Reynolds in accepting the statue. T. Dawson Brown, president of the Industrial National Bank, the trustee, will preside at the ceremony, which will be preceded by a concert by Dennis' Band starting at 1 p.m.

Lincoln Statue Dedicated In Roger Williams Park

A 12-foot bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln, depicting the Great Emancipator standing erect, hands clenched and his jaw set tight, was dedicated in Roger Williams Park yesterday.

The \$25,000 statue, provided for under the will of the late Henry W. Harvey, Providence jewelry emblem manufacturer of the Harvey-Otis firm, occupies a prominent spot in the midst of tall trees near the Park Museum.

The program was planned to take place at the site of the monument, but because of the afternoon's heavy rainfall, it was held inside the museum.

Bad flying weather also forced the main speaker to be grounded in New York. But the speech of Dr. Roy P. Basler, director of the reference department of the Library of Congress at Washington, D.C. was read by Bradford F. Swan Journal-Bulletin, enter-

tainment editor, who served on the statue committee.

Dr. Basler, an authority on Lincoln and editor of the nine-volume "Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln," said in his prepared speech that the statue might be viewed as having been wrought at the moment when Lincoln concluded his Gettysburg address with these words:

"... that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that the government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

T. Dawson Brown, president of the Industrial National Bank trustee under the will of Mr. Harvey, spoke briefly of the donor who bequeathed the money for the

statue as a memorial to his wife Georgiana.

The will provided for the erection of the statue with the advice of a committee consisting of the executor Fred A. Otis Mr. Harvey's business partner; a representative of the Rhode Island School of Design, its president John R. Frazier, and a representative of the Providence Art

The committee worked on the project with the sculptor, Gilbert A. Franklin, head of the division of fine arts at the School of Design, since 1954.

After the plans were completed Mr. Franklin made several models, each progressively larger until the final statue was created. The original plaster model was cut into small pieces and shipped to the Modern Art Foundry in Long Island for the bronze casting several weeks ago.

The 10-ton granite base came from the Providence Granite Company. The statue and base were joined last Wednesday by M. G. Allen Associates, Inc., of Providence.

Under the statue of the determined, outthrust, bearded chin of Lincoln, is the inscription:

"Erected under the will of Henry W. Harvey as a memorial to his wife, Georgiana, to perpetuate the memory of Abraham Lincoln and to inculcate loyalty and patriotism in the minds of all who come here for rest and recreation. 1958."

Dr. Basler said that over the years he has studied more than 25 great statues erected to the memory of Lincoln and "I believe that (Mr. Franklin) has splendidly symbolized in an inescapable way the sentiment inspiring the erection of this heroic bronze."

The sculptor succeeded, Dr. Basler said, in projecting "a perpetual legacy of the indomitable human will that stands firm-footed in the belief that enabled Lincoln to say, 'Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it.'"

Charles R. Wood, urban renewal coordinator for Providence, accepted the statue officially as the representative of Mayor Repnolds.

September 2, 1960

Mr. Michael A. D'Orlando
General Agent
The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company
812-13 Industrial Bank Building
Providence, Rhode Island

Dear Mike:

Every year we publish an award to be given to every Boy Scout that visits a Lincoln statue on February 12th. I enclose the one we used last February.

I think I would like to use the Providence (Roger Williams Park) Lincoln statue for the 1961 award. This statue was sculptured by Gilbert Franklin of the Rhode Island School of Design.

We have photographs of this statue but they were not taken from the right elevation and there is too much foliage in the background. Our photo must be sharp with a black background like the enclosed sample.

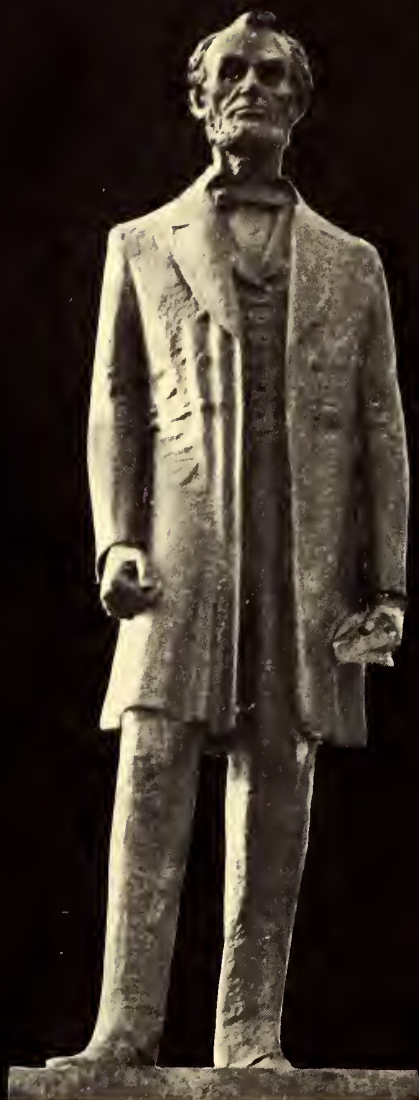
This brings me around to inquire if you could secure a commercial photographer to make us some photos for this purpose? We will of course pay all costs involved.

It was nice seeing you at the convention this year.

Sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGM:hw
enc. 1



THE INSPIRED LINCOLN

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

SCULPTOR — GILBERT FRANKLIN

**LINCOLN SHRINE
BOY SCOUT
PILGRIMAGE
FEBRUARY 12**



**SPONSORED BY
THE LINCOLN
NATIONAL LIFE
FOUNDATION**

August 7, 1963

Editor,
Providence Sunday Journal
Providence, Rhode Island

Dear Sir:

In the May 25, 1958 issue of the Sunday Journal is a picture of a photograph of a statue of Abraham Lincoln by Lawrence S. Millard. The sculptor was Gilbert Franklin.

We are anxious to have an 8 x 10 glossy print of this statue for our file on heroic bronze statues of Abraham Lincoln. We wonder if you might still have the negative for this picture, and if so, could you send us a copy, billing us for whatever cost is involved.

Thank you very much for any help you are able to give us in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Ruth P. Higgins

rph/

August 7, 1963

Editor
The Evening Bulletin
Providence, R. I.

Dear Sir:

In the April 18, 1947 issue of the Bulletin was a picture of a statue of Abraham Lincoln which was being transported from the Gorham Manufacturing Company to a cemetery in Washington D.C.

We find that we do not have a picture of this statue in our file and wonder if you could send us an 8 x 10 glossy print so that we could complete our collection of pictures of bronze heroic statues of Lincoln?

We will of course be glad to pay whatever cost is involved and will very much appreciate any help you can give us. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

rph/

(Mrs.) Ruth P. Higgins

August 12, 1963

Providence Journal
Evening Bulletin
78 Fountain Street
Providence 2, R. I.

Gentlemen:

Thank you very much for the two 8 x 10 glossy prints of the two Lincoln statues which you sent us in response to our recent request.

We appreciate your kindness in helping us to complete our collection.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Ruth P. Higgins

rph/rh

FRANKLIN, GILBERT A.

DRAWING 21a

SCULPTURE - F

FRANKLIN, GILBERT A.
DRAWING 21a
SCULPTURE - F

